

LEXINGTON, N.C.  
DISPATCH

EVENING 8,735

APR 24 1961

## AN INHERITED HEADACHE

IT NOW SEEMS TO BE agreed by many observers attached to the press of the nation that President Kennedy inherited a serious national headache in the Cuba situation, which he now concedes has turned out rather badly. The late "invasion" attempt failed miserably to accomplish its purpose, the overthrow of the Castro government.

Newsweek magazine, now controlled by the influential Washington Post owners, in its issue last week predicted that an invasion would be attempted but emphasized that the foes of Castro were not yet prepared for a serious effort. Before the issue got to its readers the invasion had been launched. This was an evidence of the confusion then existing at Washington.

President Eisenhower broke off relations with Cuba some time before he left office and it appears that steps were taken to prepare for action against the Castro regime by Cubans who had fled the mounting terror on the island, with our government giving encouragement and material aid. Castro and his aides kept up a drum-fire of denunciation against President Eisenhower and his administration but did not desist after President Kennedy was elected or took office. Castro and his Communist allies abroad now beat the drums of hate against the United States and the Kennedy administration. It is most unfortunate that the Cuban plan came a cropper, particularly at the time when Soviet Russia, which has been backing Castro with money, arms and men, is able to crow so loudly about its success in putting a man into space.

It is significant that President Kennedy during the past week invited both former Vice President Richard Nixon and Ex-President Eisenhower to confer with him at length about the Cuban situation and on steps that might be taken to recoup any lost prestige of our nation. Both these top officials participated in laying the plans that seem to have gone so sadly awry. Allen Dulles, who has continued in office as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was a key consultant with President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon.

It is more important to remedy the damage than to place the blame.